

## 'Guantanamo North' plan needs new direction

By F. James Sensenbrenner

The Obama administration is inching closer to bringing terrorist prisoners being held at Guantanamo Bay to the United States for detention and prosecution. I couldn't disagree more with their decision.

For an administration that has continued campaigning nonstop since President Obama was elected, I am not completely, but somewhat surprised the president is going against the opinion of the majority of the American public to keep Gitmo open – even if it means breaking yet another campaign promise.

The poll numbers clearly show that bringing terrorists into the U.S. was not the change some Americans voted for – and frankly, the president's actions leave me with little hope that he is listening to Americans. The American public is loudly speaking out on this, yet they are being shut out from private discussions that aren't even close to the open transparency this administration pledged.

As our commander in chief, President Obama's goal should be keeping terrorists off of U.S. soil, not detaining them near our homes or giving them addi-



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tional constitutional rights by holding civilian federal trials in New York City for 9/11 mastermind Khalid Sheikh Mohammed and other 9/11 conspirators.

These terrorists know us, and in some ways, it seems they know our system better than we do. They intend to manipulate and use to their advantage the very Constitution they still seek to destroy. It's no coincidence that when Khalid Sheikh Mohammed was captured, he told his captors, "I'll see you in New York with my lawyer." Now the president is granting him exactly what he anticipated.

We all know what justice these terrorists deserve. And despite the president apparently being able to see the future, as he recently said, "I don't think it will be offensive at all when he's convicted and when the death penalty is applied to him," as a former constitutional law instructor, the president should know that there is no guarantee that the prosecutions will be successful or that justice is guaranteed to be served. We can all hope and pray that would happen, however, I

have been a lawyer for more than 40 years and I am not so arrogant as to announce an outcome before the verdict's been read.

The president is sending a very wrong message on the fight against terrorism through his actions and decisions. We are at war with these monsters. Every day, thousands of our brave men and women risk their lives in an effort to bring about peace.

We should show our resolve by trying these terrorists as war criminals with a military tribunal at Gitmo, NOT treating these terrorists like a common criminal and granting them more rights and privileges.

House Republicans have the right message and the right plan. The "Keep Terrorists Out of America Act," which I am a co-sponsor of, guarantees that dangerous terrorists held at the Guantanamo Bay detention facility are kept off American soil and out of our courts. We recognize that bringing terrorists north is the wrong direction and we're working hard to ensure they stay at Gitmo where they belong.

*(U.S. Rep. F. James Sensenbrenner, R-Menomonee Falls, represents the 5th District.)*